

Yersiniosis

Agent: *Yersinia* species (bacteria)

Mode of Transmission: Ingestion of contaminated foods, particularly raw or incompletely cooked pork products and unpasteurized milk, contaminated surface or well water, or by direct or indirect contact with infected people or animals.

Signs/Symptoms: Vary depending on age, but may include fever, abdominal pain, and bloody diarrhea.

Prevention: Preventive measures include safe food preparation and pasteurization of dairy products. People handling pork intestines should wash their hands and environmental surfaces thoroughly after contact with raw meat, and should not handle infants or young children or their toys, bottles, or pacifiers until hands are washed thoroughly.

Other Important Information: Infection most often occurs from eating contaminated food, especially raw or undercooked pork products, including pork intestines (chitterlings). Children are infected more often than adults.

Yersiniosis: 2016 Data Summary	
Number of Cases:	23
5-Year Average Number of Cases:	13.4
% Change from 5-Year Average:	+72%
Incidence Rate per 100,000:	0.3

In 2016, 23 cases of yersiniosis were reported in Virginia. This is a 35% increase over the 17 cases reported in 2015, and a 72% increase from the five-year average of 13.4 cases per year.

Four (17%) cases occurred in persons less than one year of age, for a rate of 17.4 cases per 100,000 population. Six cases (26%) were reported among children 1-9 years of age. Thus, 44% of cases occurred in persons 0-9 years of age. This is a change from what was noted in 2015 cases, when 12% of cases occurred among 0-9 year olds and no cases in persons less than one year of age. In 2016, an average of one to four cases was reported in each of the other age groups. Race information was not available for 37% of cases. Among those with a known race, eleven were in the white population, three in the black population, and one in the “other” race population. Thirteen cases were in males and ten were in females.

Seven cases were reported from the southwest region, six from the northwest region, five from the northern region, four from the eastern region, and one from the central region. Cases occurred in every month of the year, with the most (8 cases, 35%) occurring in April and May. No risk factor patterns were noted related to travel, food, or other exposures among cases.